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September 27, 2011

EX PARTE PRESENTATION

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Presentation in WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 07-135, 05-337, 03-109; CC
Docket No. 01-92, 96-45; GN Docket No. 09-51**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, DISH Network L.L.C. ("DISH Network") and EchoStar Technologies L.L.C. ("EchoStar") submit this letter and attached information sheet summarizing a meeting on Friday, September 23, 2011 with Angela Kronenberg, Wireline Legal Advisor to Commission Clyburn. Present at the meeting on behalf of both companies were Jeffrey Blum, Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel; Dean Manson, General Counsel of EchoStar; Alison Minea, Corporate Counsel for DISH Network; and David Goodfriend, outside counsel.

During the meeting, we reviewed the tremendous benefits of satellite broadband to meeting the Commission's and the Administration's broadband deployment goals, particularly for rural America. Hughes Network Systems ("HNS"), now a subsidiary of EchoStar, has received more than 95,000 orders for satellite broadband service from eligible customers through its \$58.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Broadband Initiative Program. These are customers whose only broadband option is satellite, and who were able to afford the service as the result of a subsidy that eliminates hardware and installation costs to qualified subscribers and a 33% discount on the monthly service charge.

Given the critical role that satellite broadband can play in deploying broadband to unserved areas, DISH Network and EchoStar have serious concerns with the so-called "ABC Plan" for Universal Service Fund reform advanced by incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs"). If adopted in its current form, the ABC Plan would disenfranchise consumers—particularly those in rural areas—who stand to benefit from the availability of broadband technologies like satellite broadband. In particular, the ABC Plan guarantees ILECs a "right

of first refusal” with respect to (or even exclusive access to) \$4.2 billion in High-Cost support, relegates competitive providers such as satellite broadband to a separate and significantly smaller fund, and rigs the bidding process by defining the boundaries of supported areas according to ILEC wire centers. The ABC Plan would misallocate USF support, undermine competition, and deprive rural consumers of the high-quality and cost-effective services offered by competitive providers. USF reform is needed, but any reform should be technology neutral, award funds to the most cost-effective provider, and facilitate competitive entry.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey H. Blum

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cc: Angela Kronenberg

Enclosure